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try for sixty miles and more, parallel to the mountain axis. Most curious are the remains of human dwellings which stand in lines on the summits of these rock crests, and almost all the more inaccessible and remote points of the hills. They were often found standing on the summits of ledges of from five to twelve feet in width, with precipices of several hundred feet in depth on one or both sides; or occupying ledges on the sides of precipices forming the walls of cañons, in positions only accessible by perilous climbing. These localities are often remote from water, in some cases more than twenty miles.

The party collected and brought within reach of transportation about a ton of fossil remains. They crossed directly from the Rio Puerco to Conejos over the San Juan Mountains by a pass some twenty miles in length, where they were overtaken by a severe snowstorm. They returned to Pueblo on the 11th of November.

REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES.

EMBRYOLOGY OF THE CTENOPHORÆ.¹ — The development of certain jelly fishes (Ctenophoræ) belonging to the genera *Idyia* and *Pleurobrachia* has been elaborated in this memoir with great care and beauty of illustration by Mr. A. Agassiz. He gives a connected account of their history from the earliest stages in the egg until all the features of the adult appear. While the mode of segmentation of the yolk is extraordinary, the embryo attains the adult form without any metamorphosis, the changes being very gradual. Mr. Agassiz's observations, with the preceding ones of Müller, Gegenbaur, Kowalevsky and Fol, give us a tolerably complete view of the mode of development of this order of jelly fishes. These Ctenophoræ on our coast spawn late in the summer and fall. The young brood developed in the autumn comes to the surface the following spring nearly full-grown, to lay their eggs late in the summer. The autumn brood most probably passes the whole winter in deep water, and it must take six to eight months for the young to attain their maturity. The memoir closes with

¹ Embryology of the Ctenophoræ. By Alexander Agassiz, with 5 plates and figures printed in the text. From the *Memoirs of the Amer. Acad. Arts and Sciences*, x, Aug. 1874. 4to, pp. 41.

a vigorous and trenchant criticism of Haeckel's *Gastrula* theory, exposing its weak points. Mr. Agassiz regards the assumptions of Haeckel forming the basis of his *Gastrula* theory as "wholly unsupported." It must "take its place by the side of other physio-philosophical systems," and he denies that we have been "able to trace a mechanical cause for the genetic connection of the various branches of the animal kingdom."

ENTOMOLOGY IN ILLINOIS.¹—We have noticed previously the important entomological reports made by Mr. Riley to the state of Missouri; we now have before us a Report of about two hundred pages by the state entomologist of Illinois. It is fully illustrated by admirable drawings mostly from the pencil of Mr. Riley, and is well printed. Instead of treating directly of injurious insects, it is a treatise on the beetles of the United States, and as such will serve to prepare the way for future reports on economic entomology. The work is excellent as an introduction to a study of the beetles, which comprises some of the most injurious species, and we bespeak for it a large circulation outside of the state. We could find some fault with the general classification of the insects, but the aim of the work and successful treatment of the subject preclude such criticism. The transformations of a number of new beetles are described and figured.

POLARIZATION OF LIGHT.²—This is another of the elegant and popular treatises reprinted with additions and new plates from "Nature." They contain the substance of lectures delivered at various times to workpeople, and "constitute a talk rather than a treatise on polarized light," says the author.

BOTANY.

DO VARIETIES WEAR OUT OR TEND TO WEAR OUT?—In an interesting article on this subject in the New York "Tribune," Prof. Gray discusses this question, and concludes that "sexually propagated varieties, or races, although liable to disappear through change, need not be expected to wear out, and there is no proof that they do; also, that non-sexually propagated varieties, though

¹ Fourth Annual Report on the Noxious and Beneficial Insects of the State of Illinois. By William LeBaron, M.D. Springfield, 1874. 8vo, pp. 199.

² Polarization of Light. By William Spottiswoode, LL.D., F.R.S. Nature Series. London. Macmillan & Co. 1874. 12mo, pp. 129, with plates and cuts. Price \$1.00.